

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 IO-10 OFA-01 DLOS-04

OES-03 INT-05 COME-00 EB-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CG-00 DOTE-00

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APPROVED BY EUR - LBLAINGEN

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL IZMIR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT:POTENTIAL FLARE UP IN AEGEAN: TURKISH-CONTRACTED
SHIP (GOEL I) IN GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS

REF: A. IZMIR 149 B. STATE 158432

1. WE APPRECIATE HELPFUL INFORMATION OBTAINED BY CONGEN
(IZMIR 149) WHICH WAS GENERALLY CORROBORATED BY OFFICIAL
OF GEOPHYSICAL OFFSHORE EXPLORATION COMPANY WHO TELEPHONED
US JULY 7 AND READ FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM GOEL I.

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BEGIN TEXT. AMERICAN CONSULATE OFFICIAL ON BOARD TODAY
REQUESTING A STATEMENT AS TO THE INCIDENT. FOLLOWING IS
A STATEMENT FROM PARTY MANAGER. ON 2 JULY 1973 THE GOEL I,
AFTER FINISHING SHOOTING OF LINE 14 ON A COURSE OF 360,

TURNED WEST TO COMMENCE TURNAROUND IN PREPARATION FOR SHOOTING LINE 107 ON A COURSE OF 090. THE GREEK DESTROYER CIRCLED US ONCE AND ANNOUNCED OVER HIS BULLHORN, "LEAVE GREEK WATERS IMMEDIATELY," WHICH WE IMMEDIATELY PROCEEDED TO DO ON A SOUTHWESTERLY COURSE. THE PROSPECT IS LOCATED ENTIRELY IN TURKISH WATERS. THE ONLY TIME WE STRAYED INTO GREEK WATERS WAS FOR TURNAROUND. NO PROSPECTING WAS DONE IN GREEK WATERS. END TEXT.

WE NOTE THIS REPORT INDICATES VIOLATION OF GREEK WATERS OCCURRED JULY 2, WHEREAS STAVROPOULOS STATED IT TOOK PLACE JULY 1.

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICER ASKED GOEL OFFICIAL HOW IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT SHIP'S MASTER, KNOWING EXACT COURSE VESSEL WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW TO SHOOT LINE 14 AND TO PREPARE FOR LINE 107 AND KNOWING SHIP WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ENTER GREEK WATERS, COULD HAVE PROCEEDED ON THIS COURSE WITHOUT FIRST ASKING GREEKS FOR PERMISSION TO ENTER GREEK WATERS. GOEL OFFICIAL REPLIED THAT SHIP'S MASTER MUST HAVE MISINTERPRETED COMPANY'S INSTRUCTION NOT TO ENTER GREEK WATERS TO MEAN NOT TO SHOOT IN GREEK WATERS. OFFICIAL ADMITTED ERROR IN THIS CASE AND ASSERTED COMPANY WOULD TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THIS KIND OF INCIDENT WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

3. WE INTEND TO DRAW ON SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE IN RESPONDING TO GREEK EMBASSY APPROACH ON THIS MATTER, AND YOU SHOULD DO LIKEWISE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. YOU SHOULD ALSO INDICATE THAT WE REGRET THIS INCIDENT AS IT HAS BEEN U.S. POLICY TO TRY TO HELP GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES IN AEGEAN AND TO AVOID INCIDENTS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND TO TENSION IN AREA. KISSINGER

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